

**RHODE ISLAND DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES
NOTICE OF
PROPOSED ADOPTION OF RULES, REGULATIONS,
POLICIES, PROCEDURES, AND OTHER MATERIALS
RELATING TO THE ADMINISTRATION OF THE FOLLOWING PROGRAM:**

In accordance with Title 42, Chapter 35, of the General Laws of the State of Rhode Island, notice is hereby given that the Department of Human Services (DHS) proposes to adopt rules, regulations, policies, procedures, and other materials relating to the following program(s):

CHILD SUPPORT PROGRAM

Effective October 1, 2006, any reference to the Department of Administration, Division of Taxation, the Rhode Island Child Support Services (RICSS) agency, and Bureau of Family Support in reference to child support services in any DHS manuals shall be construed to refer to the Department of Human Services - Office of Child Support Services.

The Department of Human Services- Office of Child Support Services has updated its policy manual to reflect current state and federal laws pertaining to Child Support. Several references to specific procedures have been eliminated from the manual. All administrative hearings involving Child Support cases will now be heard by the Department of Human Services. The DHS General Provisions policy manual section 0110, "Complaints and Hearings," has been updated to include policy and procedures relating to the Office of Child Support Services.

Effective October 1, 2006, passport denial will be now triggered when an obligor's cumulative arrears are equal to or greater than \$2,500.

FOOD STAMP PROGRAM

Effective October 1, 2006, to increase the gross and net income eligibility standards; to increase the maximum food stamp allotments from which the basis of issuance tables are calculated; to increase the maximum excess shelter deduction from \$400 to \$417 per month; and, to increase the monthly standard deduction to \$162 for households of 5 members and to \$186 for households of 6 or more members.

Interested persons may inspect said proposed rules, regulations, policies, procedures, and other related materials on the Department of Human Services website at www.dhs.ri.gov, or in the Office of Policy Development, Department of Human Services, Louis Pasteur Building, Bldg. 57, Howard Avenue, Cranston, Rhode Island 02920, between the hours of 9:00 a.m. and 3:00 p.m., Monday through Friday.

Interested persons may submit data, views, or written arguments to the Office of Legal Counsel, Department of Human Services, Louis Pasteur Building, Bldg. 57, 600 New London Avenue, Cranston, Rhode Island 02920, within thirty (30) days of the date of this notice. A fiscal note is available upon request. In the development of the rules and regulations, consideration was given to the following: (1) alternative approaches; and (2) overlap or duplication with other statutory and regulatory provisions. No alternative approach or duplication or overlap was identified based upon available information. (Complies with 42-35-3(3).) The health, safety and welfare of the public preclude any economic impact that may be incurred as a result of these regulations.

In accordance with the Rhode Island General Laws 42-35-3, an oral hearing will be granted on these rules if requested by twenty-five (25) persons, or an agency, or by an association having at least twenty-five (25) members. A request for an oral hearing must be made within thirty (30) days of this notice.